Risca Urban District Council

20 JUL 1954

Medical Officer's &
Sanitary Inspector's

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR
1953

Risca Urban District Council

Medical Officer's &
Sanitary Inspector's

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR
1953

RISCA
The Starling Press Ltd.
1955

Risca Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ended 31st December, 1953. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 1/54 (Wales)

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area of the District (in acres)	4,199
Population 1953	14,930
Rateable Value	£54,174
Sum represented by one penny rate (estimated)	£195

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.5
The Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.5
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was	16.79

Infant Mortality

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	6	3	3
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births			28.98
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.5
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.4
Death Rate for County of Monmouth			11.58
Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth			32.63

Ages at Death of Children under 1 year

Under 1 week	3
1-2 weeks	1
2-3 weeks	1
3-4 weeks	-
Total under 1 month	5
1-3 months	-
3-6 months	1
6-9 months	-
9-12 months	-
Total under 1 year	6

There are no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting on. The general conditions of health were good.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	4	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	7
Lenkaemia, Alenkaemia	-	-
Diabetes	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	15
Coronary disease, angina	21	14
Hyper-tension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	2	12
Other circulatory disease	5	3
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	5	2
Bronchitis	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1

Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of postrate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	12
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2
All other accidents	5	2
Suicide	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	88	83

Social Conditions.—The chief Industries carried on in this Area are coal-mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brick works.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority. One Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector (whole-time Officers).

2. Hospital Services. Hospital Services are administered by the Regional Hospital Board as and from 5th July, 1948.

The Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for administering the following services under Part III. of the Act :—

(a) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(b) Midwifery Services.

(c) Health Visiting.

(d) Home Nursing.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(f) Ambulance Services.

(g) Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care).

(h) Domestic Help Scheme.

(i) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supplies

Complaints are received during the course of the year from various parts of the area with regard to the quantity of the water supplied. The parts which seem to be affected particularly are Hill Street, Priory Street, Woodview Road, and those situated on the higher levels.

This important matter has been discussed many times by the Council but it appears that the real reason for the trouble is due to the fact that the Abertillery and District Water Board is unable to obtain the necessary amount of water to satisfy the needs of the whole area.

It is to be hoped that every effort will be made to ensure that in the very near future all parts of the district will be supplied with an adequate and pure supply of water.

2. Drains and Sewerage

There have been no important extensions to the sewerage and drainage system of the District during the year.

3. Rivers and Streams

No action was taken to check the pollution of rivers or streams in the area during the year.

4. Closet Accommodation

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5. Public Cleansing

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

7. Shops

The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Sanitary Inspector and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

8. Smoke Abatement

No action was taken in reference to this paragraph.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

There is one open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Council. This Pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10. Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin

69 houses were found to be infested with bugs, beetles or other vermin. In each case complete eradication was effected by means of spraying with D.D.T. insecticide.

11. Schools

The Schools in the District were visited during the year and when defects were found they were reported to the Education Authority.

SECTION "D"

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	91
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	248
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
	(b) Number of inspections for the purpose ..	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in full respects fit for human habitation	—

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local or their Officers	82

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices —

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(a) By Owners

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices 7

(a) By Owners 7

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners —

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 46

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 78

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 376

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year —

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 11
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 45

(d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief —

SECTION "E"
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.—Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.—For action taken with regard to Meat and other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) Adulteration.—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e) Nutrition.—No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION "F"
PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of notifiable diseases are visited by your Sanitary Inspector. If necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of patients to an Isolation Hospital.

There were 3 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 13 during during the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children immunised during the year .. 104

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5	1							
5-15	2	1						
15-25		1						
25-35		1		1		1		
35-45	2							
45-65	3							
65 and over								
Total	8	3		1		1		

Inspections of Factories and Workshops

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical Power	23	—	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	12	—	—
	35	—	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Refer to H.M. Insp.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences . ..	—	—	—	—

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

K. P. GILES,
Medical Officer of Health.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.

Diseases.	Cases Notified. Age Groups.													Deaths. Age Groups.													
	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	Number Admitted to Hospitals.
Diphtheria																											
Scarlet Fever						3							3														
Enteric Fever																											
Pneumonia	2	2	3	4	5	7			5	2	9	7	46											2	5	7	1
Puerperal Fever ..																											
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..																											
Acute Poliomyelitis ..																											
Enceph. Lethargica ..																											
Dysentry												1	1														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1												1														
Puerperal Pyrexia ..																											
Measles & German Measles	10	30	37	39	37	60		1	1				215														
Whooping Cough ..	3	1	2		2	5							13													1	
Other Diseases ..	1												1														
Erysipelas ..									1				1														
Food Poisoning ..		1											1														
Totals ..	17	34	42	43	44	75		1	7	2	9	8	282											2	5	7	2

Risca Urban District Council

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council—

Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year

Exterior

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	55
External walls repaired or repointed	5
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	8
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	14
Rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	12
Chimney stacks repaired	11

Interior

Floors repaired or renewed	18
Windows repaired or renewed	14
Walls replastered	15
Ceilings replastered	12
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	11
Window cords fixed	21

Drainage

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	10
Flush pipe repaired or renewed	3
Burst water pipes repaired	3
Seats repaired or renewed	4
Drains repaired	10
Inspection Chambers repaired and provided with covers	6
New waste pipes fixed	5
New pedestal pans provided and fixed	4
New wash-up basins	2
Doors of W.C. compartments repaired or renewed	4

The following are particulars of meat and other foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed during the year :—

408½ lbs. English Beef	Bone Taint
24 lbs. 5 ozs. Lamb	,, ,,
38 lbs. 11 ozs. Bacon	,, ,,
12 lbs. 11½ ozs. Ham	,, ,,
2¾ lbs. Bacon	Bruising
6 stones Fish	Decomposition
81 lbs. Sausages	,,
24½ lbs. Cheese	,,
101 tins Plums	Blown
48 tins Tomatoes	,,
19 tins Milk	,,
11 tins Cherries	,,
12 tins Beans	,,
11 tins Oranges	,,
12 tins Beetroot	,,
8 tins Blackberries	,,
8 tins Rabbit	,,
8 tins Peas	,,
7 tins Peaches	,,
3 tins Pineapple	,,
7 tins Jellied Veal	,,
2 tins Steak	,,
2 tins Strawberries	,,
7 tins Pears	,,
5 tins Grapes	,,
3 tins Bilberries	,,
3 tins Pork Luncheon Meat	,,
3 tins Salmon	,,
3 tins Chopped Pork	,,
4 tins Beef Loaf	,,
6 tins Corned Mutton	,,
2 tins Apples	,,
2 tins Cooked Ham	,,
2 tins Ox Tongue	,,
7 tins Loganberries	,,
2 tins Minced Meat	,,
2 tins Fruit Salad	,,
1 tin Stew	,,

The following information was received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the County Borough of Newport with regard to the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned at the Abattoir :—

Number of animals slaughtered	42,492
Amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption	111,648 lbs.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Rodent Control Scheme

During the past year, the Rodent Control operative has been very active in carrying out treatments as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 197 private and 20 business premises of all descriptions were dealt with and very satisfactory results were obtained.

The method of treatment prescribed, consists of baiting on four consecutive days, poisoning on the fifth, and the poison left, and any dead bodies picked up on the sixth day.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out. This treatment consists of baiting on two days and poisoning on the third day. From past experience I can say that the sewer treatments have the effect of keeping the degree of infestation at a safe, low level and this has a correspondingly beneficial effect upon the degree and severity of surface infestations.

I am pleased to report that the Rodent Control Operative is most enthusiastic and conscientious, and is doing a most important job in a very praiseworthy manner.

A very good sign, too, is the growing consciousness of this problem among the general public, and we find that apart from the infestations found during routine inspections, people are becoming more co-operative in quickly reporting complaints of rats and mice.

Milk Supplies

During the year much time was devoted to the carrying out of the new legislation contained in The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, make a distinction between dairy farmers, i.e. milk producers, and milk distributors, i.e. persons trading from premises other than a dairy farm, and between dairy farms and other premises at which milk is handled. The registrations of dairy farmers and dairy farms under the Regu-

lations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the registration of milk distributors and other dairy premises is the responsibility of local authorities. This means that Officers of Local Authorities no longer have power to visit dairy farms to inspect conditions under which milk is produced.

During the year 31 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. Of these 24 were found to be satisfactory but the remaining 7 failed to pass the tests required.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947

A great deal of time was devoted to ensuring that manufacturers and retailers of ice-cream complied with the above-mentioned regulations. This was particularly the case where the hot mix method of manufacture was used.

This method means that after the ingredients have been mixed the mixture shall not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F. before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F. for 30 minutes or 160°F. for 10 minutes. It shall then, within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F. and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice cream must not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F.

Nine samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. The nine samples were found to be satisfactory.

Infectious Disease

All notified cases of infectious diseases were promptly visited and all efforts were made to trace any possible source of infection.

Advice as to the precautions necessary to be taken is given to the householder. Every house is thoroughly sprayed or fumigated when the attending doctor certifies the patient to be free from infection.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938

The shops in the district were visited on many occasions in order to ensure that the above-mentioned Acts were being complied with.

Whilst carrying out food inspection, advantage was taken to

inspect the conditions under which the employees, if any, are working.

Particular attention was paid to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences and their conditions, washing facilities, and as to whether seating accommodation was provided for female employees.

With regard to the above-mentioned matters, I can report that these requirements are being observed by the shop-keepers generally.

Verminous Premises

During routine house inspection of both private and Council properties, care is taken to ascertain any infestation by vermin.

Any cases which are found in this way and those which are reported by tenants are dealt with by spraying with an insecticide and satisfactory results have been obtained. Ten houses found to be infested with bugs were dealt with in this way and eradication affected.

I am, your obedient Servant,

GLYN M. JENKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.